

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET U.S. EMBASSY, NEW YORK

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| COUNTRY | Korea |
| SUBJECT | Nakyong Government Zinc Mine, North Korea |

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14 September 1953

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DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

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1. The Nakyong government zinc mine at XC-883314 near Mu8-dong (N 38-13, E 125-09) (XC-8832) is employing approximately 80 male and 200 female laborers. The mine has six pits; four at XC-883314, one at XC-871309, and one at XC-872306. The pits are equipped with a total of 12 rock drills and eight 50-hp motors. Electric power is supplied from P'yongyang. Approximately 90 tons of zinc ore and gold ore are mined each month. The zinc is transported at night by truck to the Haeju Refinery at Yongtangg'po in Haeju, and the gold ore is transported by truck to Yonbaek County in Hwanghae Province.
2. The main office of the mine is in a building half underground at XC-882314. The director of the mine is 40 years of age and a native of Kangwon Province. One of the mining engineers is CHONG Ui-t'aek, aged 34, member of the North Korean Labor Party, and a primary school graduate. CHONG has ten years experience as a miner and is an expert on rock-drilling and electricity.
3. The mine was opened by the Japanese in 1931 as the Nakyong Gold Mine. In August 1945 zinc ore became the main product of the mine. This was accomplished under the supervision of ten Soviet advisors who left when the mine was closed in October 1950. Since October 1950 no foreign advisors have been assigned to the mine. Mining operations were resumed in February 1951. In early 1953 new zinc deposits were being sought since the known reserves at the mine were becoming exhausted. KIM Il-song is expected to visit the mine in May 1953 to encourage production efforts.

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X", Field Distribution By "#")

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